

Andy Walker

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the 90s. Let's take a look at what happened on the 48 and 41 m/b over Xmas: Sunday 24th, good old FRS-Holland were on 7310 with a good signal here in London with excellent programming as usual. BRI were a little late in getting on the air Xmas Eve but the wait was worth it. RWI were heard on 6520 with the usual naff programmes but a good signal. 6206 saw Orang Utan the strongest of the day with a short test, and Radio London from Holland appeared on 6275 at midday with some of the worst DJing I've ever heard!! I don't know why they bother, apart from Orion/GRQ on 6300 nothing else was coming in too well to listen to. Before I went out on Xmas morning, I heard Orang Utan's strong signal on 6206 and the mighty WMR on 6312 which was very powerful. When I got back from the broadcast site after putting WFRL out for an hour, I tuned into RECC with Norman's Xmas Day phone-in which is great to listen to and this year not only on 6815 but 6260 which was very strong at my QTH. KLA were also heard on 6242 and were live like a lot of the Xmas Day transmissions. PFBS Radio were received with a good signal on 15050 and with WMRs 13790 it made good listening on the higher frequencies, as it did on Boxing Day. PFBS and Weekend Music Radio both had good signals on 19m. The station operating on 15005 was not as strong, maybe it was something to do with the time signal on the same channel (see news-ed). Back on 48m, Britain Radio appeared with programmes at 1030 on 6232. Radio Arena had scratchy mod with a not too good signal on 6205 with the usual bad programming. A weak signal was received here from RWI on 6210 plus the mod sounded a bit low so after 2 minutes I gave them a miss. KLA were on-air again on 6242 for the last time as they were closing down due to the new broadcast bill. Rainbow Germany were getting splattered by KLA and with the signal fading in and out, listening was difficult on 6240. On Saturday 30th R-FM were putting out a very good signal with competitions. The Xmas and New Year weekends produced some good free radio, of which WMR were the best. Thanks to Jack for the plugs and the comments, maybe he would like a signed photo of me for his dartboard??

Monthly Shortwave Free Radio News from
3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford,
Essex, RM3 0HH, England.

ACTIVITY MAGAZINE

Jan '90

21

73's

Radio *Wahnsinn*
Messiaen

55's

TO: PETE

DATE: 03.09.89

TIME: 0811-0839

FREQ.: 7410

SIGNO: USS



-RADIO-ACTIVITY ON SHORTWAVE!

« Rewind 89

MOST ACTIVE BRITISH SW STATIONS

DURING 1989 ON SUNDAYS (Daytime)

1	(1)	Radio Orion	52	(50)
2	(2)	Radio East Coast Comm	41	(38)
3	(-)	Falcon Radio	34	(-)
4	(3)	Britain Radio Int'l	25	(24)
5	(4)	Wonderful Free R. London	21	(17)
6	(-)	Rock-FM	19	(-)
7	(7)	Freesound Radio	13	(15)
8	(-)	Radio Laser Int'l	13	(-)
9	(6)	Weekend Music Radio	11	(17)
10	(15)	Radio Gloria Int'l	10	(6)
11	(-)	Radio Freedom Int'l	8	(-)
12	(-)	Radio Mirage	8	(-)
13	(-)	Radio Electra	7	(1)
14	(12)	Radio 48	6	(8)
15	(-)	Radio Confusion Int'l	6	(-)
16	(14)	Radio Gemini	5	(6)
17	(16)	Atlanta Radio	4	(4)
18	(-)	Total Control Radio	4	(-)
19	(20)	Radio Atlantis SW	3	(2)
20	(-)	MRBC	2	(-)

Others in 1989: 2-BM Broadcasting and 1-Voice of the Leek, KLA Radio, Coast-FM and Radio Pythagoras. Out of list from 1988 went nine stations, these were Radio Pamela (out from 5), RTR (8), Radio Kristel (9), European Music Radio (10), Radio Apollo (11), KLA Radio (13), Spectrum LC (17), Radio Insomnia (18) and Alternative Vatican Radio (19). All of which shows the amount of change on the SW bands in just 12 months!!

The rules for the chart were this: Total broadcasts on Sundays figures calculated by amount of broadcasts and/or tests (of reasonable duration). No tape stations or QSOs were included. Note that QSOs were included in 1988.

We regret that the chart didn't reflect the trend for night time broadcasts or other broadcasts at different times. This year we hope to keep track of all-known transmissions and may bring back the "Activity Chart" soon, which shows the recent amount of activity.

May-August 1989. The most active period of the year, odd when you consider that propagation conditions are not so good and that perhaps less people are listening during the summer months. Although the operating of a station from an outdoor "mobile" location is obviously much easier during summer and the good weather that goes with it. Further odd is that December '89 produced the second worst activity figures of the year!! The best rated month overall in 1989 was August with July second and June and May tied for third.

Shortwave Free Radio in Great Britain is still going strong, 1988's total amount of broadcasts (with QSOs) were 270. But 1989 (with no QSOs counted) produced a better figure of 298. As regards the amount of stations, in 1988 there were 25 and this remained the same in 1989. But note that some stations who weren't in 88's list should have been (e.g. Falcon - whose British location was only revealed to us this past year) and that once again we refer to Sundays only. But, without us confusing the issue, it is quite clear that the amount of activity from these shores is strong!!

Finally, a little look into the list, congrats must go again to Radio Orion whose dedication is unmatched, but Norman Nelson's RECC is also there most weeks, Falcon might have taken 2nd place had they not be active so early in the morning. After that we come to BRI and WFRL who remain in the top 5 again, both above the 20-mark. WMR and Freesound stay in the 10 whilst Gloria moves up to take position in the top half. The second half of stations, as in '88, were all under the 10-mark. No very big rises but many new entrants in the list, some of which (esp RFM and Freedom) threaten to be quite regular during 1990.

And that concludes our series "Rewind '89"!!

STATION NEWS

GB WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO duly carried out their expected holiday season broadcasts, transmitted not on the 48m band but also on 13 MHz (13630 or 13790) and 15 MHz (15045 or 15640), these latter HF channels not only were heard well on the continent but also here in Britain too, it's also thought reception has been obtained in the USA as well!! Programmes were an entertaining mix of music, on-air phone conversation, DX news, features etc. Not bad for a station who'd not managed much preparation before coming on!! Already by the New Year weekend, mail had started to arrive at the WMR mailing address in Cambridge in response to the broadcasts.

The last time KLA RADIO were on the air was New Year's Day 1989 and almost a year later they came up again for the holiday season. The station were active both Christmas and Boxing Day on 6243.

After trouble with a new utility on 6815, RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL moved back to the 48m band for the holiday season, 6260 was tested Christmas Eve and then used for the Christmas Day broadcast which included the expected on-air phone conversation plus a report on the charity swim in the Wash as they do each year. 6290 was activated New Year's Eve and we're told this will be the station's new frequency for the future.

R-FM re-appeared for the holiday season on the new frequency of 6275 with extremely LOUD modulation for much of the time, too loud really. A good signal though was noted by various people in Britain.

Scotland's RADIO GLORIA INT'L were heard with programmes Christmas Day and then a one-minute loop tape overnight Christmas into Boxing Day, 6285 the channel used.

RADIO CONFUSION INT'L transmitted programmes Christmas and Boxing night on 6317 with an on-air phone line which no-one rang!! This was probably due to the long skip conditions which prevailed both nights, they were very weak CN (as were Gloria) and not heard at all BN.

UK-GM were heard New Year's Day on 6930, it isn't known if this was just a one-off or if the station expects to start more programmes in 1990.

It's thought that former SWer RADIO APOLLO INT'L might finally return this Spring according to various rumours. The station were last active Autumn '88.

One station already back after a time off the air are DELTA RADIO - "The music station you love to hear on a Saturday". Last time we told you about the test in Nov, well another test was carried out Sat 30 Dec on 6257 (ann 6230) during which they said they'd be back on the last Sat in Jan. Op is Pete Edwards and mail to Hunstanton.

Still heard early on Suns are FALCON RADIO, noted once in the month on Sun 3 Dec on 6870 (at 0941) with a fair signal. The station revolves around a rock format.

Announcing 1st and 3rd Sun broadcasts on both AM and FM in Dec were RADIO FREEDOM INT'L, they were heard on both those datelines during the month and presumably we have (along with Delta) a couple of regularly scheduled stations to look forward to this year in addition to the other "regulars". Channel is either 6205 or 6250.

The impossible actually happened on New Year's Eve (Sun) when the ever-regular RADIO ORION were inactive!! This strange event took place due to most the Orion crew being struck down with flu according to Rod Lucas on New Year's Day, which included the first programme from a guy called Dave Miller (oldies 60s/70s) and then "GRQ Hard Rockin" with a review of heavy metal in 1989.

BRITAIN RADIO INT'L returned in Dec and gave us extra broadcasts on Boxing and New Year's Day. The 50 watt tx was in use NYD as Roger played some of the songs of the 80s before Steve West followed him. BRI have some new QSL cards and beer mats (!!) available now, a new info-sheet has just been made up on the new BRI computer!! Also, they plan tests to America early on Suns 7 and 21 Jan from 0500 on either 6230, 6240 or 6270. Contact is via BRI, 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

RADIO MIRAGE made one of their occasional broadcasts on Sun 17 Dec on 6280 and a good signal was noted.

The Christmas broadcast of ATLANTA RADIO took place on Sun 17 Dec on 6287 from Mark Stafford and company. Despite the huge response to the October broadcast, they still plan to close sometime in 1990, Their 11th anniversary occurs in January so perhaps they'll come on for that.

We're told by Richard Gramme that the recent broadcast by RADIO PAMELA INT'L was just a one-off, a couple of letters were received in response. Richard can be heard on other SW stations though such as Jolly Roger and Freesound. He operates KING Radio on 92.6 MHz and also 6210 KHz "locally" for the Portsmouth area Suns.

Still no sign of the planned return of FREE MEDWAY TOWN RADIO and note that sister station STAR were heard in Dec.

WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON will be closing it's regular service after the broadcasts in February, after which transmissions will be heard occasionally on either Sats or 5th Suns, the first of which will be at the end of April with the anniversary broadcast. The station has also been on the HF bands in Dec and plan more this year. The channels for our North American friends (and anyone else interested) to check are either 15166, 15729 or perhaps even 13740. It's hoped that the tx will be left on for a full 24 hours if possible. WFRL, Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU, England, is the address to write to.

No broadcasts from TOTAL CONTROL RADIO in Dec, but it's possible the station will be back in January either night or day or even both!!

Con XMAS RADIO made another annual broadcast on Christmas and Boxing Day on 7314 and had some controversial things to say, perhaps too strong for this mag!! They had received some useful publicity from Radio Netherlands shortly before the holiday period.

A new station on the dial, apparently from Holland, are RADIO MERCURY, heard on 6275 Sun 17 Dec with a variable 2-4 signal and Dutch address before closing at 1110.

Usual MW-station RADIO LONDON were again on SW (via relay ??) on Christmas Eve on 6275 with good signal-strength.

The PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE were testing out 15050 over Christmas with a good signal being noted here, it's thought the transmissions reached the USA as well!! The output was just a loop tape of around 5 minutes but programmes are expected to appear on 15 MHz soon.

Also on 15 MHz and heard on Christmas Day, presumably from the continent, were EURO-SAT on 15005.

SUD WEST RADIO returned Sun 10 Dec on 6225 with good signal-strength and we're sure this is the first broadcast from the popular German station for some time.

Further oldies from the 60s were noted again on tape station RADIO VANESSA on Sun 3 Dec, via 7440 (RWI) and 6229 (JRR).

RADIO LUCE continue to broadcast on 6520 each Sun with signals around fair/good, usually it's French music heard but on New Year's Day we heard some rock music (several tracks by "The Who" in fact) only to be followed by the "Lambarda"!! Just when you think you've heard it all.....

One of the most powerful SW stations, the VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS could be heard Sun 3 Dec (test) and New Year's Eve on 7489. Presumably the early morning Christmas Eve test to North America went out too.

From Milan, the ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE transmit each Sunday on 9860 with relays, also heard recently were the tests on 13790 with good results.

RADIO WAVES INT'L are heard most weekends still on 7440.

Despite the proposed cease of broadcasts, RAINBOW RADIO GERMANY are still running with regular transmissions, either Sun morn or Sat night usually on 6240 although on New Year's Day at 1355, 6315 was used with fair reception.

FRS HOLLAND made it's Xmas broadcast on Christmas Eve on 7309 with good signal-strength here. January sees them introduce at long last their "new sound" with the 3rd Sun broadcast (Sun 21 Jan), to make this possible you'll hear new promos, jingles, ideas and slogans. A CD music library has been obtained with all sorts of instrumental music which will enhance the "new sound" greatly.

RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND were heard New Year's Eve 7490.

PASSION RADIO also heard NYE, transmitting on 6230.

A rare appearance was noted from RADIO ARENA on Boxing Day on 6206, they are one of the many Dutch stations.

Lastly for this section, RADIO ORANG UTAN transmitted Sun 3 Dec and also Christmas Day, both times on 6206.

Ire The Irish shortwave scene is not what it used to be following the new laws that came into force at the start of '89, but we were surprised at the lack of activity from the "emerald isle" during the holiday season, we half-expected some one-offs but these didn't appear and only Jolly Roger Radio kept the flag flying. The days of the Irish stations being a notable part of the overall European SW scene must now be considered as over for the present time at least.

JOLLY ROGER RADIO were active for much of the holiday period on 6229, on Wed 27 Dec RIVERSIDE RADIO were relayed with a country music programme.

OZONE INT'L were a tentative log Sun 3 Dec on 6820.

The SCOTTISH FREE RADIO SERVICE continue to be heard on 6320 at various times either day or night. But gone are the days when you could hear a number of tape stations over the SFRS, RADIO STELLA INT'L is just about the only occupant these days but STAR INT'L were also heard in Dec.

Just for the record, RADIO DUBLIN continue on 6911.

It was revealed during on-air phone chat on WMR that WABC have no plans to return to shortwave at the moment which will please a number of other operators since last time they were active they showed little consideration.

NA TANGERINE RADIO were available to European listeners on New Year's Day via the tx of Rainbow Radio Germany on 6240, programmes included a rather good spoof on American TV preachers and comment on renting.

Another US station heard recently via European relay were the VOICE OF STENCH, the station whose base is a sewer!!

Onto some "Trans-Atlantic" radio now, EAST COAST PIRATE RADIO were heard by WMRs Jack Russell on Sat 23 Dec on 15065 after 2000 with fairish signals for around 45 mins. The output noted was an oddly named programme called "Pirate Radio UK"?? Add: ECPR, PO Box 6527, Baltimore, MD 219-0527, United States. Hope that's correct!!

One interesting UNID was heard Christmas night by at least two people in the UK, the station could be heard on 15047 and it's wondered if this might have been the VOICE OF THE NORTH, any ideas over there in the US of A??

Now here's some tips for those of you hoping to hear US stations "crossing the pond": The time to try is usually 1800-0200 and channels 15000-15100 or just above 15600. Check out the propagation conditions via reception of WWV (time signals) on 15000, or broadcast stations such as KUSW on either 15580 or 15650 and WRNO on 15420. Another useful pointer are North American "hams" on 20m, that's above 14150 with USB modulation being used. If you're lucky enough to hear any US free radio station then don't forget to write to us here so the info will be passed on.

Stateside 7 MHz now and activity was quite good before Christmas, a few of the stations on 41m were HOPE RADIO, KNBS, RADIO GARBANZO, VOICE OF FREE INDIANA, WKND and SECRET SOCIETY RADIO, amongst many others. One of the others being a religious station called the VOICE OF KRAMER'S PARK MINISTRY who were heard with a live congregation!! Early New Year's Day (0430) found us checking for US stations coming over on 7 MHz, but despite a careful check, nothing was heard. It's been suggested that any US stations who want to have a chance of getting to Europe might be better off on the 48m band (6200-6320) since it's clearer by far, please note!!

From here to the USA: Stations from Europe making it over to the States recently have been (on 48m), EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN RADIO (at 0755), RADIO ORANG UTAN (at 0804), WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO (no time known) and RADIO GLORIA. RADIO ATLANTIS were IDed on 6205 Xmas Day but we're sure the UK station of this name were not on. Our logbook only shows Orang Utan from the Netherlands on 6205 that day

(at 1015), perhaps they were playing a tape?? By the way "PiPa", your UNID heard 6245-6250 must have been VATICAN who do such things as ring bells usually on 6248. Lastly, readers might be surprised to know that WMR (6310) were heard in West Virginia just using a 15 foot antenna (wire) strung around a bedroom!!

STATIONS HEARD OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

<u>Christmas Eve</u>	7314	XMAS Radio
6229 Jolly Roger Radio	13630	Weekend Music Radio
6231 Britain Radio	13790	Weekend Music Radio
6240 Rainbow Radio Ger	15005	Euro-Sat
6260 RECC	15043	Weekend Music Radio
6275 Radio London	15047	UNID *
6285 Radio Gloria	15050	PFBS

Boxing Day

6290 UK Radio *	6206	Radio Arena
6299 Radio Orion	6210	Radio Waves
6299 UK Radio	6232	Britain Radio
6310 Weekend Music Radio	6243	KLA Radio
6315 UNID *	6300	Weekend Music Radio
6520 Radio Luce	6313	Weekend Music Radio
6911 Radio Dublin	6910	Radio Dublin
7309 FRS Holland	7314	XMAS Radio
7440 Radio Waves	13630	Weekend Music Radio
9860 IRRS Italy	13790	Weekend Music Radio
	15043	Weekend Music Radio
	15050	PFBS

Christmas Day

6205 Radio Orang Utan
6229 Jolly Roger Radio
6240 Rainbow Radio Ger
6242 KLA Radio
6260 RECC
6275 WFRL
6285 Radio Gloria
6299 Radio Orion
6313 Weekend Music Radio
6317 Radio Confusion *
6911 Radio Dublin

Wed 27 Dec

6229	Jolly Roger Radio
6229	Riverside Radio
6912	Radio Dublin

Sat 30 Dec

6229	Jolly Roger Radio
6257	Delta Radio
6275	R-FM
6275	R-FM *
6911	Radio Dublin

New Year's Eve

6200	Freesound Radio
6230	Passion Radio
6230	Jolly Roger Radio
6236	Weekend Music Radio
6240	Rainbow Radio Ger
6275	R-FM
6290	RECC
6300	Weekend Music Radio
6310	Weekend Music Radio
6315	Radio Gloria
6520	UNID
6911	Radio Dublin
7489	VOTN
7490	R. East Coast Holl
13790	IRRS Italy

New Year's Day

6232	Britain Radio
6240	Tangerine Radio
6240	Rainbow Radio Ger
6275	R-FM
6300	Radio Orion
6315	Rainbow Radio Ger
6320	Radio Stella
6520	Radio Luce
6520	Radio Waves
6911	Radio Dublin
7441	Radio Waves

* denotes night time

ODDS AND ENDS

How can a mag report on Xmas only to find it has a half page left?? Well it's happened!! So before we join Andy Walker and his latest thoughts here's a bit extra.

For conditions for tests to America: If you hear RADIO VENCERAMOS (the CA clandestine) then it must be favourable, last heard past 0400 on 6315 but they can be anywhere on 6 MHz. Perhaps more rare are RADIO PATRA LIBRE (anti-Colombian), they've been heard 0030 on 6315.

Jack Russell says that RADIO DUBLIN has been heard on it's 2nd harmonic on 13823 (2x 6911) and also WHRI doubles on 15040, this latter perhaps a pointer to receiving US stations.

And finally, thanks to those of you who sent along Christmas cards. To all readers, have a good year and let's hope it's a good one radio wise. Pete.